

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. CAROLAN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USINT BAGHDAD
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CINCEUR

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MO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 21:

Q. DO YOA HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT HAWK MISSILE QUESTION THAT
WE LEFT WITH YOU FRIDAY AND, AS YOU KNOW, GEORGE WILL IS
WRITING ABOUT THE SUBJECT AGAIN -- DELIVERY TO JORDAN, AND
WHETHER WE INTEND TO SEND THEM FOURTEEN BATTERIES, OR THREE,
OR WHATEVER IT IS?

A. NO, BECAUSE, AS I RECALL, LET ME GO OVER THE QUESTION
HERE THAT I WAS ASKED. "WHILE YOU ARE LOOKING INTO THAT,
WOULD YOU ALSO CHECK WHY, AS REPORTED ISRAEL WAS FIRST TOLD
IT WOULD BE A DEAL OF \$100 MILLION AND IT IS NOW A DEAL OF
\$340 MILLION?"

Q. AND ALSO THE TIMETABLE, BECAUSE THERE IS SOME QUESTION
OF HOW MANY HAWKS WERE INVOLVED.

A. THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION IS THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED
WITH PLANS TO SUPPLY JORDAN WITH AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AS
AGREED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN, AND WE HOPE THAT THE
CONGRESS WILL AGREE. AND AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE ARE NOW
ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER.

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AS TO THE SIZE OF THE PACKAGE, AGREEMENT ON THE SPECIFIC
COMPOSITION WAS REACHED AT THE TIME OF KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT
TO THE UNITED STATES IN LATE APRIL. AND THE COMPOSITION
OF THE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE AGREE-
MENT -- SINCE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT THE TIME OF THE
KING'S VISIT.

NOW, ON THE SECONDPART OF THE QUESTION THAT WAS ASKED ME
ON FRIDAY, I BELIEVE THERE WAS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, PER-
HAPS, BETWEEN THE TOTAL PACKAGE AND THAT WHICH WOULD BE
DELIVERED OVER THE NEXT YEAR. AND WE BELIEVE THAT AS A
RESULT OF THE CONSULTATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON, AND
ARE CONTINUING WITH THE CONGRESS, THAT THE CONGRESS NOW

UNDERSTANDS WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PROPOSING FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR, AND THAT WHICH IS PROPOSED BEYOND THE NEXT YEAR AND INTO THE FUTURE. AND THIS IS ALL TO DO WITH THE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE.

D THAT IS ABOUT ALL I CAN GIVE.

Q. DOES ISRAEL UNDERSTAND THAT, TOO?

A. I WOULD ASSUME SO, YES.

Q. THE UNDERSTANDING WAS AT THE TIME THAT WHEN THEY WERE TOLD THAT IT WAS A THREE BATTERY THING WORTH ABOUT \$100 MILLION, ISRAEL GOT RATHER UPSET ABOUT IT, BECAUSE THEY SAID, "WE THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T DELIVERING UNDER THE REASSESSMENT, DURING THE PERIOD OF THE REASSESSMENT." THEN IT BECAME NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THREE AND A HALF TIMES THAT, AND THE REASSESSMENT, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, I STILL GOING ON?

A. THAT IS RIGHT, IT IS. AND THESE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE, I THINK, AS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED A NUMBER OF TIMES HERE BY ME AND BY THE SECRETARY, THAT THESE WERE NEGOTIATIONS THAT STARTED AND WERE GOING ON WITH JORDAN. I THINK NOW IT SHOULD BE ABOUT ELEVEN MONTHS AGO.

Q. ALL RIGHT. NOW, NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALSO GOING ON WITH ISRAEL FOR SOME F-15'S AND SOME LANCE MISSILES, I WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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SAY PROBABLY ABOUT ELEVEN MONTHS AGO, AS WELL. WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH THOSE?

A. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THAT OVER AND ABOVE WHAT WE STATED IN THE PAST

Q. MEANING NOTHING WILL BE DELIVERED IN THE COURSE OF THE REASSESSMENT. NOTHING WILL BE COMMITTED DURING THE COURSE OF THE REASSESSMENT.

A. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE POSITION THAT THE SECRETARY HAS STATED ON THAT PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF THE REASSESSMENT. THAT IS MY INFORMATION.

Q. NOTHING PENDING THE CONCLUSION?

A. WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN EQUIPMENT SUCH AS YOU MENTIONED.

Q. THOSE ARE STILL ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK, IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN OKAYED BY THE PENTAGON, I UNDERSTAND.

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK OR NOT, FRNAKLY.

Q. IT HASN'T BEEN OKAYED BY THIS BUILDING, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT HAS BEEN OKAYED OR NOT. I DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHETHER IT HAS GOTTEN UP TO THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

Q. WHAT IS THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE TIMETABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE WHOLE PACKAGE TO JORDAN? HOW MANY YEARS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER OF YEARS. AS I RECALL, IT IS THREE, FOUR, FIVE YEARS, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I DON'T HAVE AN EXACT FIGURE. IF I CAN GET IT, I WILL.

Q. YOU SPOKE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING IN CONGRESS. WAS THE \$350 MILLION PACKAGE DISCUSSED AT THAT TIME? WAS CONGRESS UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMED AS WELL OF THE SIZE OF THE PACKAGE AT THAT TIME?

A. LET ME SAY THAT I AM GETTING INTO THE FIGURES, ET CETERA; THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SENT UP A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER TO THE CONGRESS, AS REQUIRED, AND I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE FIGURES AND THE DETAILS OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LETTER THAT WENT UP THERE. I JUST DO NOT THINK IT IS RIGHT FOR ME TO DO IT.

Q. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE ONLY WAY THERE COULD BE A MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD BE THAT THE CONGRESS WAS INFORMED AT

THE TIME THAT THE TOTAL PACKAGE WOULD BE \$350 MILLION, AND THAT THE IMMEDIATE DELIVERY WOULD BE LESS THAN A THIRD OF THAT, AND THAT SOMEHOW THEY GOT THE TWO CONFUSED. BUT IF THEY WEREN'T INFORMED OF THE WHOLE PACKAGE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, I DON'T SEE HOW THERE COULD BE A MISUNDERSTANDING.

A. LET ME FIND OUT IF I CAN ADD ANYTHING MORE TO WHAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN. I WOULD BE GLAD TO DO IT. BUT I GATHER THAT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING, THAT THERE NO LONGER IS ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, AND AS A RESULT OF ROY ATHERTON'S VARIOUS HEARINGS UP THERE, IT HAS ALL BEEN EXPLAINED, AND OTHER PEOPLE HAVE ALSO GONE UP, INCLUDING TOM PICKERING, AND I GATHER --.

Q. THEN THE DELIVERY TIMETABLE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION.

A. PRESUMABLY IT IS AVAILABLE UP ON THE HILL, AND I DO

NOT KNOW WHETHER THAT HAS OR IS -- AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC, BUT I WILL BE GLAD TO LOOK INTO IT.

Q. HAS PICKERING RETURNED TO JORDAN?

A. NO, HE HASN'T. HE IS STILL HERE, AND THERE IS NO SPECIFIC DATE FOR HIM TO RETURN YET. I THINK HE WILL BE HERE UNTIL THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY EXPLORED IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS. THAT WAS MY INFORMATION. UNCLASSIFIED

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MATION THAT I GOT THIS MORNING, ANYWAY.

Q. WHEN YOU SPOKE OF NEXT --, I WANT TO BE CLEAR AND SURE AND CAREFUL ABOUT ONE THING.

A. YES.

Q. YOU SAID THE MISUNDERSTANDING INVOLVED THE NEXT YEAR. DON'T YOU MEAN THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR?

A. I THINK YOU ARE RIGHT ON THAT, THE BALANCE OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

Q. IS WHAT THE MISUNDERSTANDING WAS ABOUT.

A. ZERAUSE THAT, AS I RECALL, WAS WHAT WE ANNOUNCED EARLIER. YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S TESTIMONY TODAY THAT DELIVERY OF THIS PACKAGE WILL ENABLE THE RUSSIANS TO LEARN SOME OF THE SECRETS OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT THE ADMIRAL SAID.

Q. WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR PROVIDING AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN?

A. WELL, DICK, I THINK THAT MAYBE THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO GIVE YOU THE BEGINNING OF ROY ATHERTON'S STATEMENT ON THE HILL, BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT, NUMBER ONE, DENIAL OF THESE SALES, THAT THE KING OF JORDAN AND THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT FEEL THAT THEY NEED THIS FOR THEIR OWN SELF-DEFENSE. AND WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE DENIAL OF THESE SALES WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH JORDAN, AND TO THE LONG-ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF COOPERATION BETWEEN US, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IN STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION FOR JORDAN'S MODERATE POLICIES.

Q. YOU SAID, THOUGH, THAT THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE

FOUNDATION FOR JORDAN'S MODERATE POLICIES. ONE OF THE
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THINGS THAT WAS SAID IN THE COURSE OF THE 1973 WAR WAS
THAT JORDAN COULDN'T PARTICIPATE, BECAUSE IT DIDN'T HAVE
ANY AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. WOULD THIS HELP THEM MODERATE
THEIR POLICY, IF THEY THEN HAD AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM?
WOULD THIS HELP THEM BE MORE MODERATE, OR WOULD IT HELP
THEM PARTICIPATE IN A POTENTIAL WAR?

A. WELL, I THINK I HAVE TO STAND WITH WHAT ATHERTON AND
OTHERS HAVE SAID, THAT WE HAVE FELT THAT JORDAN HAS PUR-
SUED A MODERATE POLICY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR CON-
TINUING THE PURSUIT OF A MODERATE POLICY, AND WE FEEL
THAT BY HELPING THEM WITH THIS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM THAT
THEY WISH TO HAVE, THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THEM
CONTINUE A MODERATE POLICY. THIS IS OUR CONVICTION.

Q. I THINK IT IS A LEGITIMATE QUESTION TO RAISE WHETHER
MODERATION COMES FROM STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS IN PARTICULAR
CASES.

A. I REALLY JUST HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO SAY ON IT AT THIS
POINT.

Q. WELL, YOU ARE ON THE SAME SUBJECT. WILL THIS BE
AVAILABLE TO SYRIA UNDER A JOINT COMMAND?

" " ;" - -"

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE IS NO JOINT COMMAND BETWEEN
JORDAN AND SYRIA, NUMBER ONE. THAT IS A HYPOTHETICAL
QUESTION.

Q. ALRIGHT, YOU WANT TO BE SPECIFIC. IF JORDAN AND SYRIA
FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR PLANS TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMAND,
WILL THE HAWK MISSILES BE AVAILABLE TO THEM? IS THAT OUR
UNDERSTANDING? WOULD THE SYRIANS HAVE ACCESS TO THESE
HAWK MISSILES?

A. I HONESTLY DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DOEU ROY?

A. I WILL CHECK IT, THOUGH, FOR YOU. I WOULD ASSUME
THAT THEY WOULD NOT. BUT I WOULD THINK THERE IS NO JOINT
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COMMAND, AND WE ARE DEALING WITH A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION
HERE. I THINK YOUR QUESTION IS LEGITIMATE, THOUGH.

Q. THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF TALK AND, PLANNING FOR

SUCH A JOINT COMMAND. IN FACT, ANNOUNCEMENTS OF IT.

A. I REALIZE THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF TALK. WHEN WE WERE LAST IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SUCH A JOINT COMMAND WAS PRACTICALLY A CONFIRMED ANNOUNCEMENT IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE PRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT IT STILL ISN'T A FACT. THERE IS NO JOINT COMMAND.

Q. COULD WE BROADEN THE QUESTION TO ASK IS THERE WERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON END USE?

A. I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE NORMAL RESTRICTIONS WOULD APPLY. THAT IS WHY I WAS ANSWERING THE WAY THAT I DID.

Q. WELL, COULD WE FIND OUT SPECIFICALLY?

A. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

Q. WHICH WOULD INVOLVE TRANSFER TO SYRIA OR TO EGYPT.

A. LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. IF I AM INCORRECT HERE THAT THE USUAL RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT APPLY, I WILL SO INFORM YOU. BUT I AM SURE THAT THERE WOULD BE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFERRABILITY TO A THIRD COUNTRY.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION GOING THROUGH WITH THIS JORDAN PACKAGE AS A WAY OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO BE MORE CONCESSIONARY IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS?

A. I DON'T THINK SO, NO.

Q. DINITZ, THIS MORNING, ON THE TODAY SHOW SAID THAT THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES

AND ISRAEL ON THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL THAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE EGYPTIANS, OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING PRESENTED. IS THAT ACCURATE?

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A. ON THIS, THE QUESTION OF THESE VERY INTENSE AND DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS, LET ME MAKE JUST TWO OR THREE POINTS HERE, IF I MAY.

FIRST OF ALL, AS USUAL, I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER SIDE MAY CHOOSE TO SAY PUBLICLY ABOUT IT.

IN ESSENCE WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO HELP BOTH THE PARTIES COME TO AN AGREEMENT. AND I MIGHT ADD HERE, WE ARE NOT ENDORSING THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE HERE. AND THE MOST RECENT ISRAELI VIEWS WERE, AS WE ALL KNOW, THE SUBJECT OF VERY INTENSE CONSULTATION WITH THE UNITED

STATES, BUT I CAN'T GET INTO THE POSITION OF COMMENTING EVERY DAY ABOUT ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS AND THE DETAILS. AND I REALIZE -- I HAVE READ -- JUST HAD A LOOK AT THE TEXT OF THE --.

Q. HAS THE LATEST ISRAELI POSITION BEEN PRESENTED TO THE EGYPTIANS?

A. YES, IT HAS. AMBASSADOR EILTS RETURNED SATURDAY AFTERNOON HE LEFT HERE AND WENT BACK TO CAIRO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF AN INITIAL RESLONSE FROM THE EGYPTIANS?

A. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE SECRETARY HAS RECEIVED A REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS.

Q. CAN YOU CHARACTERIZE THAT REPORT AS TO WHETHER IT IS ENCOURAGING, OR WHETHER THE PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE -- OR WHAT?

A. NO. HERE AGAIN YOU KNOW WE ARE GETTING INTO THE DAILY TEMPERATURE TAKING HERE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE ARE GOING TO BE FURTHER EXCHANGES. THESE ARE ON-GOING EXCHANGES. THEY ARE VERY, VERY FREQUENT AND WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE SO THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED. BUT I CANNOT GO INTO EVEY SINGLE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXCHANGE, EVERY DAY HERE.

Q. YOU SAID AT THE OUTSET THAT IT WAS AT A VERY INTENSE AND DELICATE STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS; AND YOU SAID THAT THE --

A. I DIDN'T SAY "STAGE." IT IS JUST THAT THESE ARE VERY INTENSE AND DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS. YES.

Q. HAS THERE ALREADY BEEN A RETURN FROM -- IS THE MOVEMENT CONTINUING BEYOND THE REPORT THAT EILTS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY?

A. WELL, THERE WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. OBVIOUSLY.

Q. WAS THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL HANDED ON, WITH ANY ENDORSEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. I DON'T KNOW -- AND I DO NOT WANT --

Q. BUT YOU HAVE JUST SAID YOU CAN'T ENDORSE ANY PROPOSAL.

A. WHETHER YOU MEAN BY "ENDORSEMENT" ANY COMMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES THAT MIGHT HAVE GONE ALONG WITH IT --

Q. YES, LIKWN ZTHIS LOOKS WORKABLE."

Q. OR, "WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD GIVE THIS YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION," OR ANYTHING OF THAT SORT.

Q. "OUR PHONE NUMBER IS --" ANYTHING OF THAT SORT. YOU KNOW, YOU'VE ONLY GOT UNTIL THURSDAY. THE U.N. FORCE IS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR, AND EVERYBODY IS ALL EXCITED.

A. I REALLY DO NOT WANT TO INDICATE WHAT WE TELL THE EGYPTIANS, OR WHAT WE TELL THE ISRAELIS. I THINK THAT AT LEAST AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE ARE GOING TO JUST REMAIN SILENT.

Q. IS THE REPORT FROM EILTS THE REPORT YOU ARE AWAITING-- UNCLASSIFIED

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OR DO YOU EXPECT A FURTHER REPORT FROM HIM WHEN IT GETS ANOTHER EGYPTIAN REPLY?

A. THERE MAY BE MORE REPORTS BACK FROM HERMANN EILTS.

I WAS ASKED IF THE SECRETARY HAD HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS SINCE HE RETURNED TO CAIRO. I SAID, YES, HE HAS HAD A REPORT. THIS MAY NOT BE THE ONLY REPORT. THERE MAY BE FURTHER REPORTS. I CANNOT GET INTO HOW MANY TELEGRAMS HERMANN MAY SEND BACK HERE EVERY DAY.

Q. HAVE YOU GOT THE EGYPTIAN REPLY FROM HIM YET, THOUGH?

A. I AM GOING TO LEAVE IT AT THAT: HE HAS HEARD FROM

THE AMBASSADOR -- THE SECRETARY HAS HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS. THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI -- AND THAT IS WHERE IT STANDS NOW. AND THERE WILL BE ON-GOING EXCHANGES.

Q. THE ISRAELIS ARE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. IS RECOMMENDING THE ISRAELI POSITION TO THE EGYPTIANS. THEIR AMBASSADOR ALL BUT SAID THAT ON TELEVISION THIS MORNING.

YOU SAID: WE ARE NOT ENDORSING THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE -- THEN YOU SEEMED TO WITHDRAW THAT. ARE YOU WITHDRAWING THAT STATEMENT THAT ARE NOT ENDORSING THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE?

A. WE ARE NOT FAVORING THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. WE ARE RELAYING THE VIEWS OF EACH SIDE. IN THE PAST ON MANY

OCCASIONS WE HAVE PRESENTED OUR COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS THAT ONE SIDE MAY RELATE TO THE OTHER -- BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF IT. I CANNOT DO IT.

Q. NOW IN THE PAST, PUBLICLY, SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS COULD DO NO MORE. ARE THE AMERICANS NOW SAYING THAT THE ISRAELIS CAN DO NO MORE?

A. I AM NOT SAYING THAT. NO, I AM JUST NOT COMMENTING.
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Q. ARE THEY SAYING ANYTHING?

A. I AM NOT SAY
ING ANYTHING ALONG THAT LINE.

Q. CAN WE ASSUME THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD VETO ANY ATTEMPT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CHANGE THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH GOVERN THE STATUS OF THE U.N. FORCES ON THE SINAI?

A. ON THE UNEF QUESTION, WE ARE WORKING IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN NEW YORK, WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, MR. PLEYER, AMBASSADOR PLEYER, OF ITALY. AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE I JUST WANT TO LEAVE IT THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO TRY AND SEE THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

I DO NOT WANT TO INDICATE WHAT WE MIGHT DO IF A CERTAIN SITUATION AROSE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED.

Q. WE ARE DOING THIS WORK IN NEW YORK, AT THE U.N. AND NOT HERE IN WASHINGTON. CORRECT?

A. THE FOCUS OF THIS WORK IS UP IN NEW YORK, YES.

Q. WELL OF COURSE THE U.N. IS INVOLVED.

A. YES, VERY MUCH SO.

Q. BUT I MEAN, SO FAR AS THE CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, IT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED NATIONS. IT IS NOT TAKING PLACE AT THE EMBASSIES HERE.

A. BASICALLY, THE CONSULTATIONS ARE UP IN NEW YORK. NOW I AM NOT RULING OUT -- I DO NOT EVEN KNOW -- I WOULD NOT RULE OUT SUPPLEMENTARY CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSIES HERE, OR POSSIBLY IN CERTAIN CAPITALS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED.
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BUT THAT BASIC THRUST OF THE ACTIVITY IS DEFINITELY AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN NEW YORK -- RIGHT NOW.

Q. IS IT THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT THE MANDATE CAN BE EXTENDED WITHOUT A DIRECT REQUEST FROM THE PARTIES INVOLVED?

A. THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY QUESTIONS THAT THEY ARE DEALING WITH UP IN NEW YORK.

Q. WELL, PRESUMABLY, AMBASSADOR EILTS HAS HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS IN HIS CONVERSATION OVER THE WEEKEND WITH SADAT AND FAHMI.

A. WELL FRANKLY, I WOULD ASSUME THAT YOU WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT THERE.

I DID NOT ASK, SPECIFICALLY, IF THIS SUBJECT CAME UP -- BUT I THINK THAT IS A VERY LOGICAL ASSUMPTION.

Q. WELL WOULD THAT GOVERN WHAT WE ARE DOING IN NEW YORK?

A. IT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON WHAT WE ARE DOING IN NEW YORK, YES.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY INTEND TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ TO CONVEY TO HIM ANY EGYPTIAN REPORT, REPLY?

A. AS OF AN HOUR AGO WHEN I CHECKED, THERE IS NO APPOINTMENT THAT HAS YET BEEN SET UP BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DINITZ AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. NOTHING IS SET UP AT THE MOMENT.

Q. WHEN AMBASSADOR DINITZ WAS HERE LAST WEEK PRESENTING NEW ELEMENTS, OR NEW IDEAS --

A. YES.

Q. THOSE DESCRIPTIONS WERE USED BY THE UNITED STATES AND BY ISRAEL.

THE SECRETARY HAD SOME QUESTIONS, AND ANOTHER MEETING WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SET UP FOR THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS.

DOES HE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT MR. EILTS HAS CABLED BACK?

A. I DO NOT KNOW ON THAT.

Q. HAS HE ASKED MR. EILTS TO GET ANY MORE INFORMATION OR ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE EGYPTIANS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I DID NOT ASK HIM THAT SPECIFIC DETAIL.

Q. WOULD YOU LOOK TO A DINITZ-KISSINGER MEETING SOMETIME TODAY OR EARLY TOMORROW?

A. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT AS OF NOW, NOTHING HAS BEEN SET UP. I DO NOT WANT TO PREDICT WHEN THEY MIGHT GET TOGETHER AT THIS STAGE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER -- IN THE PRESENT TIME FRAME OR NOT, OR EVEN IN A PROSPECTIVE TIME FRAME -- DOES THE SECRETARY HAVE SOME INFORMATION THAT HE WANTS TO CONVEY TO AMBASSADOR DINITZ?

A. OBVIOUSLY, I THINK, AT SOME POINT HE WILL BE AS PART OF THIS ON-GOING DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE, IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ -- BUT I JUST CANNOT TELL YOU WHEN.

Q. I WANTED TO ASK YOU WHETHER YOU HAD ANY COMMENT ON AN ISRAELI PRESS REPORT THAT SAYS THAT "IT WAS RELIABLY LEARNED THAT THE U.S. HAS ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE IDEA OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS MANNING FOUR SURVEILLANCE STATIONS IN THE SINAI PASSES AREA."

A. THERE, I THINK YOU CAN GO BACK TO WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID IN MILWAUKEE ON THE 16TH, IF YOU HAVE NOT READ THAT. THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ALONG THIS LINE.

IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THIS WOULD EVENTUATE AT SOME POINT, AS THE SECRETARY SAID, THAT WE WOULD BE IN THE CLOSEST UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBLE TOUCH WITH THE CONGRESS -- BUT THIS IS PREMATURE AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE --

THERE IS NO AGREEMENT HERE.

Q. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THESE TECHNICIANS WOULD BE DOD PERSONNEL, IS THERE?

A. I DO NOT, HONESTLY, KNOW. BUT THERE WOULD BE NO AMERICAN TROOPS, AMERICAN FORCES, THE SECRETARY HAS SAID. NOW WHAT THE NATURE OF SUCH TECHNICIANS WOULD BE -- IF -- THIS, AN EXPANSION OF OUR RECONNAISSANCE ROLE, CAME ABOUT -- I JUST DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE NATURE OF THE ROLE WOULD BE.

Q. THERE IS STILL SOME QUESTION IN MY MIND IN VIEW OF WHAT DINITZ SAID THIS MORNING. HE SAID THAT THE AMERICANS ARE ENGAGED AT THE PRESENT TIME IN SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS -- AND I CAN FORESEE AN ENLARGEMENT OF THIS ROLE.

WELL RIGHT NOW, THEY ARE ENGAGED IN THE AIR, AND NOT ON THE GROUND.

IS IT DETERMINED NOW THAT IF THERE IS AN EXPANSION IT WILL BE ON THE GROUND AND NOT IN THE AIR?

A. I JUST CANNOT COMMENT. I DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THIS AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET INTO -- THIS IS ONE OF THE POSSIBLE DETAILS THAT ARE BEING DISCUSSED, AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO -- FROM OUR SIDE, ANYWAY, WE ARE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT IT.

Q. IS IT ENVISAGED THAT ANY OTHER THIRD COUNTRY MIGHT TAKE PART IN THE SURVEILLANCE OPERATION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE RUSSIANS EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN TAKING PART IN THE SURVEILLANCE?
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A. NO, I HAVE NOT. KISSINGER

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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750252-0115
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
GENEVA
KUWAIT

JIDDA
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TUNIS
TEL AVIV
TEHRAN
TRIPOLI
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME
USUN N Y
NATO
SANA
BAGHDAD
DOHA
ABU DHABI
ALGIERS
CINCEUR
Type: TE

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